

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims by adding new claims 14-17 to the application. Claims 14 and 15, dependent respectively on claims 1 and 14, define amount of the reaction product, of formaldehyde and an alkanolamine, included in the photoresist stripping agent. See, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of Applicant's specification. Claims 16 and 17, dependent respectively on claims 1 and 16, respectively further define the alkanolamine and the formaldehyde, consistent, for example, with the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of Applicant's specification.

The restriction requirement set forth in Item B on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005, is noted. Consistent with the requirement by the Examiner in connection therewith, Applicant respectfully elects the Group I claims, directed to claims 1, 2 and 11-13.

This election is made with traverse, the traverse being set forth in the following.

That is, Applicant respectfully traverses that the Examiner has shown that the subcombination has separate utility, as contended by the Examiner in the second paragraph of Item B, on page 3 of the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005. That is, the Examiner contends that the subcombination (apparently, the Group I claims) has separate utility such as fertilizing or corrosive inhibiting agent other than a photoresist stripping composition. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not shown such separate utility.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner must consider the subject matter as claimed. Note that claims 1, 2 and 11-13 are directed to a photoresist stripping agent, which "comprises" a specified reaction product.

Especially in view of the present invention as claimed, directed to a photoresist stripping agent, Applicants respectfully traverse the conclusion by the Examiner that the "subcombination" (as alleged by the Examiner) has separate utility. In this regard, it is emphasized that all of claims 1-13 are directed to a photoresist stripping agent, and thus, as claimed, all of the present claims are directed to such agent, and not, respectively, to a reacted product and process for obtaining the product, on the one hand, and a photoresist stripping composition, on the other.

Furthermore, it is noted that all of the claims recite the specified reaction product, with various of the Group II claims reciting additional components (e.g., an alkali compound, an organic solvent, an anticorrosion agent, etc.). As emphasized previously, all of the claims are directed to a photoresist stripping agent. It is respectfully submitted that a search for the Group I and Group II claims in the same application would not constitute an additional burden on the Examiner. For this reason also, it is respectfully submitted that restriction between Group I and Group II claims is not proper. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 803.

In any event, in order to provide a complete response to the outstanding Office Action, Applicant elects the Group I claims, and respectfully requests examination at least of the Group I claims in due course. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-17, newly added herein, are also within the Group I claims and should be considered on the merits in the above-identified application.

The requirement in Item A on page 2 of the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004, for election of a single disclosed species "for an initiation of a search", is noted. Applicant respectfully elects ethanolamine as the disclosed species of the alkanolamine. Applicant also elects isopropanolamine as the disclosed species of

alkali compound; elects dimethyl sulfoxide as the disclosed species of the organic solvent; and elects citric acid as the disclosed species of ant corrosion agent. See Items A1-4 on page 2 of the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005, and examination of all claims presently pending in the above-identified application, in due course, are respectfully requested. In any event, Applicant respectfully elect the Group I claims, which include claims 1, 2 and 11-17 as presently pending the above-identified application, this election being made with traverse; and respectfully elects disclosed species as set forth in the foregoing, for purposes of initiation of a search.

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 396.43366X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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